

CITY OF DURHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT



Durham Fire The Spark

Upcoming Events

- February 18—
Fire Officer 2
- April 27—Sound
the Alarm Event
- April 29—Relief
Driver School
- June 1—State-
wide Smoke
Alarm canvass
- June 17-20—JFM
Program

Volume 2, Issue 1

Winter Edition



Durham Fire Department's Ninth Fire Chief

On January 22, 2019, a swearing-in ceremony was held for our ninth Fire Chief, Robert Zoldos, II. The event began with the posting of colors by the DFD Honor Guard followed by a Welcome from Master of Ceremony Asst. Chief Chris Iannuzzi. Chaplain/Battalion Chief Shawn Field gave the invocation, followed by words from our City Manager Tom Bonfield, pinning of the badge by Sherri Zoldos and swearing in by Mayor Steve Schewel. The event was held at City Hall outside Council Chambers. The evening concluded with light refreshments and fellowship. If you missed the event, you can watch it at: <https://youtu.be/po78IWZ7tRY?t=168>

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2018 End of Year Run Totals

Total Calls – 27,360

EMS – 16,881

False Alarms – 3,619

Fires – 951

Service and Other – 5,909

Engine Company

E2 – 2860

E3 – 2597

E1 -2076

E5 – 2033

E4 – 1855

E12 – 1749

E9 – 1700

E13 – 1526

E6 – 1363

E16 – 1336

E8 – 1184

E10 – 1064

E14 – 608

E18 - 525 (In Service on 7-1-18)

E15 – 390

E17 – 254 (In Service on 7-1-18)

Tanker Unit (In Service on 7-1-18)

Tanker 18 – 49

Tanker 11 – 44

Tanker 17 – 38

Tanker 19 – 21

Tanker 8 – 18

Quint Company

Q11 – 1565

Q7 – 1560

Q19 – 560 (In Service on 7-1-18)

Ladder Company

L2 – 2171

L3 – 1896

L12 – 1090

L6 – 975

L17 – 284 (In Service on 7-1-18)

Squad Company

Sq 1 – 3249

Sq 4 – 2577

Sq 7 – 2258

Division Chief

FD 8 - 263 (In Service on 7-1-18)

Battalion Chief

B1 – 1429

B3 – 1208

B2 – 1131

B4 – 291 (In Service on 7-1-18)

Specialty Unit

Safety Officer 1 – 979

Mobile Support 1 – 924

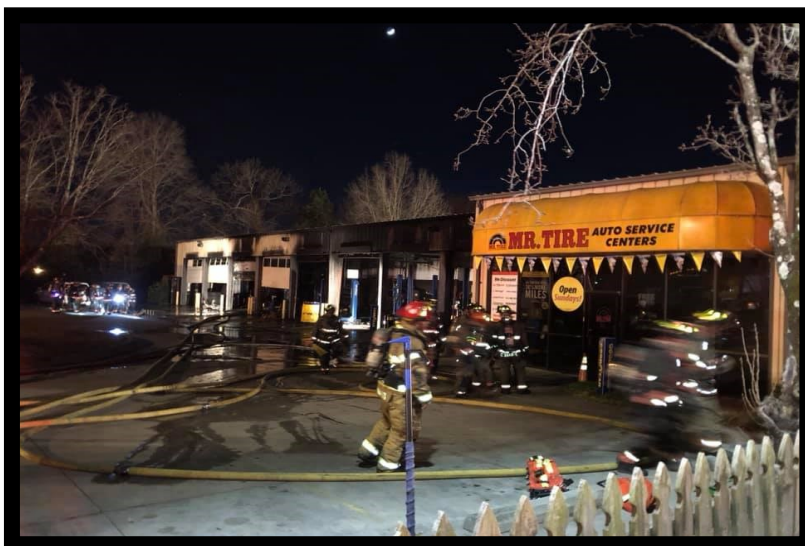
FD 20 – 781

Haz Mat 13 – 150

Haz Mat 16 – 31 (In Service on 7-1-18)

“In fire, you can plan everything out to the minute, and a minute before that everything changes”

-Dan Felix





NC Insurance Commissioner/ State Fire Marshal Mike Causey Visits Durham

Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey visited with firefighters at Fire Station 17 on January 10th during his tour of local fire departments. He is traveling the state to speak with firefighters to find out what they need to improve their jobs. NCOSFM is working to reduce the number of fire fatalities in our state. In 2018, 133 people lost their lives in NC due to fire. In most of these fires, a working smoke alarm was not present. Another state-wide smoke alarm canvass will take place this year on June 1 to emphasize the importance of smoke alarms in your home. Last year, we participated in the event and installed over 164 smoke alarms. This year, we will participate again with a goal to install even more smoke alarms!



Upcoming Retirements

January

Captain Bernard Greene
Fire Driver Rodney Jenkins

February

Captain Andrew Johnson

March

Firefighter Ralph West

**But sound aloud the praises, and give the victor-crown
To our noble-hearted Firemen, who fear not danger's
frown.**

~Frederic G.W. Fenn, "Ode to Our Firemen," 1878

Meet the Newest Hazmat Team Member (Phoenix 1)-

Captain David Mangum

The Hazmat team has a new piece of equipment. The team has a drone that can be used for reconnaissance or to check scenes for safety issues. Several department members attended a forty hour training session that taught them how to operate the drone. All pilots must take the required FFA test to be certified to operate the drone. The drone can go approximately 1 to 2 miles down range to conduct recons, searches, and scene safety surveys. The team is very excited about this tool and can't wait to place the unit into service. Look for us in the friendly skies soon.

The Hazmat team has also been working on predetermined assignments once the team arrives on the scene. Having predetermined assignments will ensure better deployment upon arrival. Additionally, due to the short staffing of the team, it is necessary to have predetermined assignments so that we know the positions that will need to be filled by other units once the entire team is on scene. Please remember that the Hazmat team is ready to help if you have a call that you are unfamiliar with or if you need assistance with your meters. As always, please do not hesitate to call. Be safe out there!



**“I am a Hazmat Technician! If you see me running, try to keep up”.
-unknown**

Fire Prevention Updates—Fire Marshal Jody Morton

Preliminarily, it appears that our inspection numbers are above target. The staff has also been involved with fire investigations. AFM Fletcher assisted DPD with an arson arrest and AFMs Link, Wrenn, Graves, Kromer, and Wilcox actively participated in the large commercial fire investigation at Mr. Tire on LaSalle Street. AFM Merritt attended the NC Fire Marshal's Association meeting and has been appointed to serve on a committee to develop a mini law enforcement class for Fire Marshals. Acting Deputy Fire Marshal Joel Gullie has put together the new Blasting Permit Application. Acting DFM Gullie will also attend a meeting with several other NC Fire Marshals and representatives to discuss the new Emergency Responder Radio requirements. Gullie and AFM Merritt also met with the Durham Bulls Management Staff and S & W Fireworks Company to discuss multiple upcoming changes to the fireworks setup at the DBAP.

There have been many other positive team efforts and I appreciate everyone's dedication and professionalism. I have received a request about upcoming Fire Prevention classes, so I have included the link to register for classes. <https://apps.ncdoi.net/f?p=114:505:::NO> If you are interested in learning more about career opportunities in the Fire Prevention Division, you may schedule a ride along with our staff. We recently sent out information to guide officers with fire investigations. This is for scene preservation and evidence collection. If you have any questions or concerns about fire investigation procedures, feel free to contact your Fire Prevention staff.

The Fire That Claimed Durham's Business District Over a Century Ago

Captain Sean Boone

Durham's worst fire in history was recorded on March 23, 1914. The fire destroyed a large portion of the downtown business district. This million-dollar fire destroyed many buildings. The water system completely failed the fire department during this fire.

Timeline

10:30 p.m. The Duke building caught fire about 10:30 pm. Two breaks in the water main left the firefighters helpless to fight the fire.

12:15 a.m. The whole of the Duke building is gutted and all the buildings in the block are on fire. There seems little hope of saving any of the buildings. A heavy wind is blowing the flames across the block in the northwesterly direction and great sparks and parts of the burning roof are being dropped in that entire section of town.

12:30 a.m. Another water main burst, and the big high-pressure pump at Fire Station No. 2 on W. Main St had been stopped. The blaze is moving eastward and several other large buildings adjoining the Duke skyscraper have been destroyed.

12:45 a.m. The firefighters have the conflagration partially under control, after the complete destruction of the Duke building owned by Brodie L. Duke. The total loss to the buildings and stock of goods will run near the million dollar mark. All five stories of the Duke building have been completely gutted. Only the walls are standing.

1:15 a.m. The fire is spreading west and the whole of the Geer block of buildings is now on fire. The post office building is being filled with stock from burning buildings. This will be in serious danger. The Academy of Music is also burning.

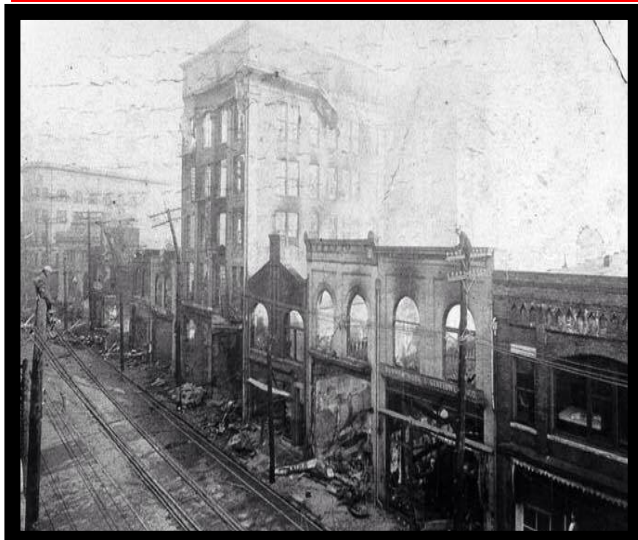
1:40 a.m. The drug store of Haywood & Boone on the corner of Main and Mangum and Blacknall's drug store on the corner of Main and Corcoran are both in flames and the whole block seems doomed. The post office is red hot and it seems, will go with the rest.

2:00 a.m. Fire that has swept the richest business block with a million dollar loss, has crossed from East Main to Mangum and Corcoran streets, and is now alarmingly near the First Baptist Church.

4:15 a.m. The fire is under control and with over a million dollar loss with several buildings burned to the ground.

Aftermath - The tall Duke building, more than a hundred feet high, scattered flames all over Durham, while the firemen were forced to look on the destruction with their apparatus in a state of almost total paralysis. The failure of the water has rendered outside firefighter's aid unnecessary. Amid ruins still hot and smoking, Durham has begun her resurrection and the fire of this morning is now looked upon as a short pause only, in the business of a busy town.

Source- The News & Observer



Fire Prevention/CRR activities for 4th Quarter

- 1581 Routine fire inspections completed
- 741 New constructions inspections completed
- 21 Fire investigations completed
- 7 Arson investigations with 1 arrest
- 57 Car seat installations at Fire Station 18
- 133 Community Engagement Activities
- 7 “Remembering When” program for seniors
- 7 Fire Drills completed
- 2 “After the Fire” Community Engagement Events
- Chief Zoldos swearing in at City Hall



Car Seat Inspection Information—Captain Carol Reardon

The fire department assumed the role as a permanent Safe Kids CPS checking station from the county during the recent merger. Currently, we only have one station that has been designated as a checking station. Fire Station 18 located at 1409 Seaton Road is the location for the safety checks. The seats are only checked by appointment on Thursdays from 13:00 to 17:00. There are only two locations in Durham that are permanent checking stations. The first one is at 139 Milton Road and they complete installations on Wednesday mornings from 9:00 to 12:30. The second location is Station 18. These two locations cover the entire city and county of Durham. Currently, the fire department is not handling diversion car seat checks. At times people may not follow the rules that are given to them when the DA assigns them into the program. We are actively trying to prevent them from scheduling online, but there have been incidents where people were able to arrive for the appointment. The fire department will eventually complete diversions, but currently staffing does not allow for the program to be handled by the limited staff. I am the coordinator and contact for the CPS program and may always be reached at 919-697-5520. Please contact me if anyone calls with questions or they are having difficulty with scheduling. I have access to the schedule at all times and can assist with the process. This is the link to schedule an appointment!

<https://www.genbook.com/bookings/slot/reservation/30105673?category=152851944>

Where are they Now!

Fire Driver Glenn Mincey

When did you retire and how long were you with the department? May 2017 and worked 30 years

First Assignment? – Engine 2 with Captain Randy Baker. He and I are still friends after all these years.

Do you have a call that never leaves your memory? A fire on New Year's Eve in a shot gun shack! We fought fire all through the house; it was full of fire from the front door to the rear door. When we exited the home, there were fire works in the night sky visible as we exited the back door. It was one I will never forget!

Best Fire House memory? The camaraderie with the crews and working hard together at the station and on calls. The teamwork that we had.

What are you doing these days? Still recovering from my motorcycle accident that I had 5 months ago, thankful to be alive. I teach concealed carry class at Danny Drye's Gun Shop, which keeps me busy and I very much enjoy it.

Do you keep in touch with anyone on the Fire Department? Every Wednesday I meet up with about 14 of the retirees from the Durham Fire Department. We have a "Meet and Eat" and sometimes go as far away as Milton, NC to meet. We have a good crowd and retired Captain Tim Price is always very entertaining and keeps it lively.

Do you have any advice for the next generation of firefighters? Always come in with an open mind and work hard. Train like your life depends on it, because it does. This is the best job in the world.

Do you have any regrets? I do not have any regrets. I was able to retire on my own terms. I tried my hand at all roles in the department. I did rescue, hazmat, and attended all of the training classes that I wanted to. I didn't miss out on any opportunities.

